Between the Lines

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Featuring reports on inside trends, forecasts of significant developments, and other matters pertinent to Christian thinking in the field of economics, labor, social strife, and international affairs.

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Vol. III, No. 3 THE CHRISTIAN LAYMAN'S INFORMATION SERVICE—CONDENSED, NON-DENOMINATIONAL January 31, 1944

Dictators and Christianity

The black and poisonous anti-religious tides are slowly receding. From both Russia and Germany come reports that fully indicate that this trend is now of wide and significant scope.

As you will recall, we reported to you some weeks ago that our listening posts within the communist movement advised us that the first notable evidence of a return to religion on the part of the Soviet would come when something was done to replenish the depleted ranks of the priesthood which have suffered constant decrease by persecution and death since the early days of the Bolshevik revolution.

In Russia Reports have recently reached this country that the Soviet government is now preparing to open seminaries and reinstitute the ordination of priests. Consequently we believe that a statement can now definitely be made that at least institutional and formal religion has been officially reestablished in Russia. But this brings us to another important and, to the Protestant mind, a very serious point. What will be the status ot the "free churches" in Russia—the evangelicals and Protestants?

Very few people realize that, before the revolution in Russia, the old Orthodox Church, that now is being restored, carried on as severe repressive measures and outright persecution against Protestants as have the communists against all religion, the Orthodox Church in particular. Protestantism has actually grown tremendously in Russia since the communist revolution and during the Soviet persecutions. Does this new turn of affairs mean that the old church returns to its place of power to suppress those who seek *freedom* of conscience and true *freedom* of worship?

Nazi Shift In Germany, as perhaps your papers have reported, the Nazis have made a right about face in their attitude toward Christianity. The Gestapo and Storm Troopers were ordered to make a prominent showing at Christmas services, thus indicating that the German people have the official sanction of their masters to turn to the consolations of religion at this time of great losses on the Russian front and terror and destruction at home. The Religious News Service suggests that, "the Nazis are attempting to meet an upsurge of religious feeling which is reported to be developing among the German people . . . Since all avenues for the expression of Christian sentiments have been closed, the Nazis are in the predicament of having to use their own press for morale-building religious messages."

It is quite likely that the Nazis are hurriedly trying to save themselves by establishing a moderate movement within their government. To save themselves, they are now turning desperately to the cross they tried to destroy.

Insurance Issue

We hope you are watching the struggle in Congress on the part of the large fire insurance corporations to avoid having to

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THE POST WAR PEACE depends largely on whether there are to be separate yardsticks of justice used by the United Nations; one for the big three, Russia, England and the United States, and another yardstick—used behind the counter—for the other thirty-three nations. Some of us are expecting peace to come through eloquence, political strategy and economic cunning, but we cannot have enduring peace until we are honest.

America's Choice

In spite of the floods of official propaganda which have been poured out upon the American people in the last two years to convince them that all is sweetness and unity between London, Moscow and Washington, under the surface, as *Between the Lines* has continuously informed you, a struggle of conflicting interests has steadily threatened the relations of these great governments. In the last few weeks a few explosions related to this struggle have been violent enough to push through the severe blanket of censorship so that the general public is now more or less aware that things are not as they have been made to appear.

America's Attitude And let it be added at this point that no Christian layman can look on this scene without pride in his own country and its leaders as they stand in the world political scene. Our leaders have been party to the world wide deception by propaganda of the true situation, but they were desperately hoping real unity would evolve and were willing to take a chance on it to the extent of joining in the general propaganda front. Where branches of the government or officials acted from selfish interests in international relations, they have been justly subject to criticism. But in a general way America has openly said, "Let us make a *Christian sharing peace*," and has supported this attitude by many tangible evidences of good intentions.

We renounced our unjust territorial rights in China in which action the Dutch, French and British imperial interests were reluctantly forced to join—but not without a dozen provisos that they will keep *this* territory and reclaim *that* area. The result was that America's generous offer, that for a moment brought hope and strength and rejoicing to China's war weary heart, was finally dissipated in a bitter realization that London is fighting a white man's war only and no other.

The United States, in cooperation with Russia, has pushed China forward as a first class power over the protests of the other allies. The Dutch, British and Free French spokesmen *still constantly insist on referring to what Washington calls "four-power agreements" as three-power agreements."* The American government led the way by establishing openly and definitely the independence of the Philippines with the hope that this action might prod others to recognizing the need of a new attitude toward Asia. But the only results were a muttering in London among the tories that, "We intend to hold our own." Queen Wilhelmina broadcast a nice but watery speech about the "reorganization of our colonies."

In the meantime Britain has quietly taken over control of Ethiopia, strategically located to guard the passage ways to the east, a new step in imperialism, news of which has been severely suppressed. Also London has guaranteed France that French colonies will be returned intact and unchanged.

Russia's Attitude Stalin, cunning, patient, realistic, watched all this with sharp smiling black eyes, obligingly appeared at conferences (provided the other fellows did all the travelling), dutifully posed for pictures, and went home to draw up Russian post war plans to match what he saw was the determined policy of his allies, to win the war with a nice, tidy strengthening of national selfish interests. This, in Russian terms, meant bolstering Russia's western frontier against European enemies present and potential. Moscow made no comment when London policies were announced, but when the Moscow government made evident its intention regarding Poland and the Baltic States, London and some voices in Washington expressed surprise and pain. Need we be surprised that Moscow views the world with suspicion?

Russia and the United States *Stalin is evidently trying to steer toward closer relations with America.* The Russians are as frankly fond and respectful toward Americans as they are unfriendly and suspicious of others. *And it is very likely that the curtailing and softening of communist activity in America, as reported elsewhere in this issue, is a part of a general over all Moscow plan of doing everything possible to cultivate better Russian-American relations.*

However, the other powers are quite likely to develop a counter pressure to offset Russian influence and draw us in the opposite direction—away from Russian cooperation and closer to the governments of empire. In fact *Between the Lines* has received reports which indicate that such a struggle is already quietly and secretly developing under the surface. Few Americans people have any taste for the totalitarianism and materialism that has characterized twenty years of the Stalin regime. There are, of course, constant indications that Russia is changing, but how far only time can tell. In any event, the American people may some day be faced with a great and difficult choice. God grant us wisdom.

Insurance Issue

(Continued from first page)

submit to the regulations of the anti-trust laws. We'll let the experts be the judge of the issue, but the methods the insurance companies use must be rather indicative of the nature of their attitude.

Many reports have come from dependable sources in Washington that the insurance corporations have used political threats that amount almost to out-and-out bribery to hold Congressmen in line. A clean cause is not usually identified with dirty methods.

The individual company can disclaim any knowledge of these tactics for such actions are the result of the insurance lobby in Congress hired by the insurance company associations to get results in their favor. However, disclaiming knowledge does not disclaim responsibility.

New Indian Troops

We reported to you some time ago that one of the reasons why the British have been unable to launch any activity of consequence against the Japanese from India after nearly two years of preparation was partially due to the fact that the British could not trust their large Indian colonial army to expel the invaders from Burma and Malay because many of the Indian troops sympathized with the independence aspirations of the people of Burma and Malaya.

Reports current in Washington now are that the British have been desperately trying to correct this situation, to save their faces before the colonial world, by hurriedly recruiting and training tribesmen from remote hill countries—half civilized jungle inhabitants who like to fight and who will fight anybody anywhere for a price and for shiny equipment. The British have been forced to shift the more thoughtful Bengalese, Sikhs and Senegalese to other fronts, although many if not most of the Sikhs are loyal.

The newly formed regiments of jungle tribesmen are in some cases being called by honored old names, "The Senegalese Rifles," "The Bengalese Brigade" etc., and a few trusted old timers of the original regiments are being placed in minor command positions to justify the otherwise deceptive regimental banners. Such units are being used with native regiments of tried loyalty. The world will soon be told again how famous regiments are still fighting to remain within the Empire!

International Finance and War

In our last issue we reported the reorganization of the international rubber cartel and stated that high officials of the American State Department are cooperating with foreign rubber monopolists. Further information reveals that any such assistance works principally by "cooperation through inac-

The Administration and Labor

In spite of appearing repetitious we must again point out that, behind the smoke screen of anti-labor sentiment which has dominated the American press for many weeks, labor continues to make substantial gains. As we have constantly informed you, the position of labor is so strong politically now that all the recent manipulation on the political front by the administration to create the illusion that the New Deal is over, that we are swinging to the right, means nothing when it comes down to the real issue. Labor is getting set for the post war era; management knows it and is trying hard to hold the extension of labor's grip to a minimum.

After the great battle on the surface between John L. Lewis and the President, you noticed that the administration saw to it that the miners go what they wanted. After dramatically taking over the railroads, with a fanfare of anti-labor gestures on the administration's part to please the anti-labor elements in our political scene, you noticed that the railroad workers also were quietly taken care of. We point out the fact that big publicity played up the President's strong action in taking over the railroads "to stop labor's threat," and comparative hush-hush was cast over the scene when the rail workers later got their demands.

Mr. Roosevelt knows where power lies in this country, that even if 90 per cent of the press and radio is against him in the next election, as it was in the last, labor votes plus the small farmer vote, would elect him or his political heirs.

The war is being used by anti-labor business interests to check the growing power of unionism and organized workers, but the intelligent Christian must look beyond this surface action and see the ever increasing fact that America's destiny is more and more being shaped by men who toil and by their representatives in the political field. It was this same sort of social evolution that brought in Mussolini and Hitler in the last post war period. America faces a comparable situation in the next post war era. Isn't the time approaching that we should quit spending our energies fighting labor and start guiding it?

Why No Communist Party

Did you see the report in the press that the communists of America have quit politics as a separate political party in the United States? For many years the Communist Party ran candidates for election as did any other party. It has been announced that no longer will the communist organization so function politically.

Moscow Line Here is the inside explanation of this action as reported from our listening posts within communist circles:

1. The move is in accordance with the "New Moscow Line" of formal cooperation with the other members of the United Nations. Stalin has ordered the discontinuance of all communist activities that in any particular way cause embarrassment or difficulty for the other United Nations leaders. The dissolution of the Cominterm and the rewriting of the revolutionary international hymn were incidents related to this Moscow shift.

2. In the past, communist workers as well as racial literature and pamphlets, published under the heading of a political party, always had a definite political interest and objective. The average working man, however, was more concerned about his job and dinner pail. By dropping all political labels, the communists can now set up their literature so it will appeal as directly as possible to the workers' deepest personal interests. Such titles as these are already beginning to appear on new communist pamphlets: "Jim Crow and the Negro's Job," said to be published by "The Freedom Workers Club"; "Youth and the New Day," published by "Democracy for Youth." The address of both of these organizations is the same as that of communist headquarters.

Program More Subtle The communists have also agreed not to raise the issue of socialism in the post war period "in such a form and manner" as to weaken national unity according to a statement made by Earl Browder, general secretary of the American Communist Party. Mr. Browder explained further that the new program calls for peaceful settlement of internal differences rather than for interclass violence.

This is taken in communist circles to mean that their program is, as we have pointed out, henceforth to be more subtle, more engaging and less disturbing. But we should also be cognizant of the fact that much of the widespread distaste for the American communists on the part of the American people has been because of the communists' rash, crude methods. Has the time not come when such methods are recognized to have failed in America? Our advice is not to conclude that the communist "mission" is over in America. The world is changing and they are adapting their program to that change.

Soviet Policy for the Future

can State Department are cooperating with foreign rubber monopolists. Further information reveals that any such assistance works principally by "cooperation through inaction," although it is apparently true that the international and foreign monopolies do have some dependable friends in the State Department. But when the Department of Justice tries to prosecute these cartels, it is often blocked in legal action by lack of cooperation on the part of other government officials to the detriment of the interests of the American people.

This whole matter is again being brought to light by the recent disclosures occasioned by the Department of Justice's action against the great Chase National Bank of New York for cooperation with international diamond traders who are involved in Axis agreements. These diamond traders are Dutch citizens belonging to the same group of imperialists which, in cooperation with the British, operates the great rubber and diamond monopolies.

In spite of the banking officials' denials, the evidence remains that the diamond traders operated through these American banking facilities and by international trade agreements that could not help but be known to our State Department. The point we make is that international high finance does have its hands deep in certain departments of our government as it did in the last war, and that the power of these groups is such that, when their interests are contrary to the best interests of the American people, the pressure and power of profits have ascendancy over the interests of the common people. Such a situation should not be just smoothed over and go unchallenged in Christian thinking.

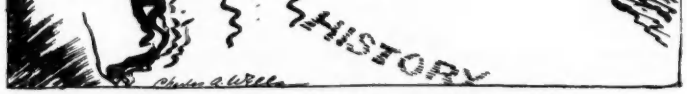
Expert's Private Opinion

To show you how our press is being forced to mislead the American people as to the true situation in English politics, George Fielding Eliot, prominent radio commentator, is saying during personal appearances what he dares only hint at in his writings and broadcasts.

Many other newsmen and commentators speak in a similar vein in private yet do not dare tell the truth through regular channels. What is the source of this pressure of censorship and why?

Major Eliot asserts that the English people bitterly disapprove the present Tory policy being pursued toward India by the government, and that they will, after the war, demand a government which seeks India's independence.

He believes that most Englishmen, unlike Mr. Churchill, feel the day of imperialism is over and he suggests that other powers, which now have Oriental possessions, follow the example of America in the Philippines. Although we made many mistakes there, said Major Eliot, "we did conscientiously try to prepare the Filipino people for independence."



THE VOICE OF MODERN MAN

As the fear of defeat vanishes, there is a tendency on the part of some of us in the allied world to assume guiding wisdom and responsibility for the recent course of events. The facts are quite otherwise. If there ever has been a period of blind stumbling into desperate danger, we've had it during the past decade. Frankly, it was not our planning that saved us in the west,—it was the stupidity of the enemy who thought he was a match for the vastness, the winds and the men of Russia. And history will deal severely with the blindness that caused the white man to lose a century in Asia in less than six months,—a century we may never regain. No, the force that has held the progress of human life in its forward-pressing channels has been God's will which hems us in on every side. Some of us try to batter ourselves against the tide or the shore and are soon lost under the waves, but God still holds the course of events within the channel of His purposes and always will. Inasmuch we fit ourselves to His purposes only can we succeed.

The Real Englishman

As we have pointed out before, one of the major injustices of the present war picture in America is the fact that all of the news and impressions of England today come to us almost exclusively through the tory controlled news channels of London. *The London aristocratic millionaires, who still dominate the British government, have desperately tried to force the American people to believe that we cannot be pro-British unless we are pro-imperialistic* with all that imperialism has stood for, both good and evil but increasingly evil as the world has become increasingly modern. Such a picture, which has been forced upon the American people, is a vilification of the English people themselves and has kept Americans from realizing what vast changes have come, and are still coming, to English thought and life.

Censorship has kept the American people from knowing that the average Englishman openly says that toryism and all it stands for must either drastically reform or go; that the whole English educational system, favoring the perpetuation of leadership among the upper classes and restricting the development of leadership in the lower classes, must change and is being changed; that the widest and most complete reform measures of English educational history are now being organized and promoted; that the bombing of London and other English cities has advanced by generations the riddance of slum areas which long have been a blight on English urban life; that the English labor movement, which is completely forced out of the news that comes to America, is one of the increasingly powerful influences in British politics, and that when the war is over we will see one of the most complete upheavals of political power ever known along the Thames; that the English churches, headed by liberal thinking, bravely speaking Rev. William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, are leading out vocally and powerfully for a thorough reform of British imperialism and colonial policy.

All this for the most part is being kept from the general American public. Some American preachers, in trying to appear fashionably patriotic, defend British policies in a manner that would provoke laughter (or tears) in British congregations which have for many months been pushing vigorous demands for reform on the very policies those American pulpits rise to defend!

Winston Churchill, brilliant, rich aristocrat and stubborn defender of the past, war time leader of England by virtue of a system that strangled the growth of leadership in any other but the upper classes, has been long advocating a uniting of the English speaking peoples. That unity may well come to pass in time but it will not be the unity Mr. Churchill has fought for—a unity of power to protect privilege. The unity that can come, and one which will be welcomed by many Americans who are now wary of pledging American resources to perpetuate a tottering colonial system of exploitation, will be a unity of the common people, rising to a fuller experience of self-determination and self-realization through Christian principles and Christian leadership.

A world peace built on such a widening spiritual fellowship might well be realized through the combined efforts of peoples with a common heritage of culture and language. Sentiments or prejudice do not divide us; greed and selfishness divide us, and these are sins that are shared equally by both peoples and which must be repented of equally if we are to fulfill any worthy common destiny.

is changing and they are adapting their program to that change.

Soviet Policy for the Future

Dr. D. J. Dallin, one of the greatest living Russian historians and authorities on Soviet policy, has recently written a book called "Russia and Post War Europe" which has just been translated into English. Some words in this book should be studied very closely by anyone who wants to see into the future:

Distrusts Pacificism The Soviet government, says Dr. Dallin, "has never put any trust in the pacifism of any other government. It has regarded skeptically, even ironically, the assurances of true friendship that have been offered it. It has in latter years become still more confirmed in this attitude. Hence a skeptical and cautious attitude toward the pacification of the entire world after the war is only a continuation, development and consolidation of the basic lines of policy.

"As a logical conclusion from this, it follows that the Soviet government must strive to secure peace terms which will give Russia new strategic positions for the imminent new period of great world conflicts.

"The Soviet government has not the least faith in the durability of post war alliances, in assurances of friendship or in pacts of collective security. For this reason it seeks, and will seek even more as time goes on, to insure its interests by means of widening its sphere of influence in Europe, in the territory which separates Russia from Germany and Italy. Recognition by other powers of Russia's right to control these territories is the first aim of Soviet foreign policy in the last stages of the present war.

No New League "It is very probable that after the war a superstate organization will be set up in Europe, an organization which the Soviet government will agree to join. But Soviet Russia will not commit the defense of her territories to a new league, nor will she agree to placing her military forces at the disposal of an international body, such as an international police force or some similar organization, whatever its name may be."

Put these words down by the eloquent, kindly but vaporous words that emanate from London and Washington and you can see why it begins to appear that international diplomacy has about dwindled to, "Yes, Mr. Stalin."

We can get along with Russia all right, but only if we are realistic and mean what we say—and probably if we do not say too much. We had a half a dozen disarmament conferences after the last war, from which we more or less excluded Russia, and through it all no one really intended to disarm but Uncle Sam. Perhaps there will be fewer dreams but more progress in our new post war world because Russia will force us to be realistic and factual.

Christians Caught in the War

Thrilling reports of the Christian program under war conditions in Asia are quietly trickling out through Christian organizations of America which have been getting reports from recently repatriated missionaries. As newspapers have stated, the returning Americans were warned by our own State Department that they must not say much, for further hardship and suffering can be caused those Americans still held in enemy hands. Such was the case some months ago when former refugees told freely of their sufferings. But *Between the Lines,* from various sources, has gathered a report for its readers that will bring encouragement and increased faith to any Christian's heart.

Many missionaries report their eagerness to go back, although it often means going back to charred and destroyed buildings and homes. One family lived in a small church basement for over a year, ministering to a war torn community. Their services were given mostly at night when they could escape the observation of the occupational patrols.

Missionary doctors and their families often lived in the hospitals, the wives and even the children acting as nurses and surgical assistants. How would your little girl of 13 make out assisting at amputations, or dressing wounds of the battle torn? Missionary families are made of heroic stuff.

Christian work goes on in Japan under a united leadership. With only one or two exceptions, the church groups established in Japan by the Roman Catholics and the various Protestant denominations have joined forces. Christians can thus present a solid front instead of being divided into comparatively weaker denominational organizations. As a Foreign Missions Council report puts it, "Looking back over the past four years, one is gripped with the conviction that this union is of God. It is difficult to see how the Christian movement in Japan could have survived the present crisis had it gone into it divided into the original 42 distinct and different segments."

The great Kagawa is permitted to carry on his quiet, unpublicized evangelical work and his spirit must bring courage to many Japanese churches which find themselves sorely handicapped in their work by war time restrictions. Christian worship is not prohibited, but most of the young men are in the armed services and ministers and church workers are ordered to do part-time essential war work.

Some American missionaries from Japan can tell stories of their internment which are far from being tales of terrorism. At the risk of incurring official suspicion many Japanese pleaded for the release of their American friends. The meager, sometimes inadequate, diet of the prisoners (the diet of the average Japanese civilian rates very low indeed in comparison with American standards) was, whenever possible, supplemented by foods contributed by devoted Japanese Christians.

Chinese churches in occupied territory carry on their work to the best of their ability despite the loss of buildings and equipment, crippling inflation (many pastors must also take teaching positions to earn a living), and the efforts of the Japanese military to fit these churches into Japan's imperialistic plans. Reports reaching this country indicate that in most cases the Japanese sent as "advisers" to the Chinese churches are genuine Christians whose activities do not severely menace Chinese Christianity.

Repatriated missionaries are already looking forward to the time when they may return to aid in the Christian movement in Asia. They know conditions will be profoundly different than any others under which they worked, but they believe their assistance will be helpful and that it will be wanted.

Little is known how the mission work in the Philippines has fared. Most, although not all, of the missionaries were taken prisoner by the Japanese. An American missionary here and there is still free to live and work among his Filipino friends.

One missionary of the interned group told a very moving story of the kindness showed to him and his family by a Japanese officer. The missionary family was being transported to Manila and on the voyage was assigned only deck space for living quarters. The parents, realizing that in the cold and rain their children were in danger of contracting pneumonia, put the youngsters in the only shelter available, a small, smelly deck toilet. A Japanese officer found the children and took them and their parents to his cabin. He gave them dry clothes and kept them in the cabin for the rest of the trip. This family will not soon forget the compassion evidenced by an enemy of their country.

Vitamins, Drugs and Advertising

Between the Lines has reported to its readers that vitamin manufacturers are demanding high prices for their products although the cost of production has materially declined. Federal agencies have been finding it necessary to crack down on the vitamin makers to bring prices into line.

In connection with that, we feel we should also report to you that scientists are beginning to speak out in protest over the public's seeming thoughtless addiction to vitamin pills. Spurred on by advertising the American citizen, it seems, will swallow a tablet or two and consider himself thereby automatically assured perfect physical health and well being.

The great biochemical discoveries regarding vitamins and their importance in the human body have been used indiscriminately in the publicity of the pill producers. Large numbers of intelligent persons have been fooled by the widely advertised but one-sided accounts of miracles worked by stepping up vitamin intake. The ads conveniently forget that all biochemists and nutritionists know and proclaim to the limit of their ability the fact that a normal, reasonably varied diet will provide ample vitamins to meet all normal bodily requirements. Furthermore, unfavorable and as yet undiagnosed body reactions to certain vitamins or combinations of vitamins quite possibly exist.

Vitamin manufacturers are not the only advertisers who permit misleading statements to be published. In the last issue of *Between the Lines* we reported to you concerning the action for false and dangerous advertising taken by the Federal Trade Commission against a prominent laxative company. Another company, the Lewis-Howe Company of St. Louis, makers of "Nature's Remedy" preparation, has been forced by the FCT to change certain statements on the bottle labels. The "Nature Remedy" preparation—generally known as NR Tablets—is now so labelling its bottles that the "Directions for Use" will make it clear that "Nature's Remedy" is not suitable or safe treatment for sufferers who have any of the symptoms of appendicitis, such as abdominal pain and nausea.

However, as long as some warning appears on pill bottles and advertisements contain the phrase, "CAUTION: Use Only As Directed," the usual sweeping claims of much laxative advertising may still get by. And how many Americans who are "sold" on a product by the advertising will take pains to read the fine print in which most "Directions for Use" are set?

Obviously considerable reform in vitamin, drug and similar advertising will be necessary before the Christian principles of honesty and "love thy neighbor" are practiced instead of the present tendency toward "exploit thy neighbor."

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